

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

STUDY MISSION TO CHINA

WHEREAS, in July 2006, three members of the State Board of Education will participate in a study mission to China to (1) inform and broaden the perspectives regarding education reforms from pre-school through higher education in an international context; (2) position educators and policymakers to anticipate and plan for change in a global context; and (3) develop a high quality ongoing program of professional development that will ensure educators have an international perspective as they shape and influence Michigan education; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2004, the State Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a Cooperative Educational Exchange between the Beijing Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China and the Michigan State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Board of Education believes that Michigan's public schools should expand international education learning opportunities for all students in pre-kindergarten through postsecondary; and

WHEREAS, international education promotes knowledge and understanding of other countries including their language, history, geography, religion, arts, and political and economic systems; and

WHEREAS, in addition to ensuring that students master reading, writing, and mathematics, opportunities must be provided for students to acquire an understanding and appreciation of the world and its diverse people, so they may then understand their connection with other countries and cultures and how global issues are inextricably linked to their lives and futures; and

WHEREAS, international education goes beyond learning facts and figures about other nations; it promotes understanding of cultural differences and similarities and enables students to understand how world affairs affect their lives and their community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, learning may occur through interdisciplinary projects focusing on worldwide issues such as the environment, energy, conflict resolution, and human and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, America's future depends on its ability to reach out to the world and embrace the best contributions of all people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That connections made during the study mission to China be maintained to strengthen and deepen our understanding of each other's languages and culture, and to enhance the understanding of our students in order to develop productive relationships and enrich the educational offerings for our youth.



Adopted June 13, 2006

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction